



## **STATE OF WISCONSIN**

Department of Safety and Professional Services

INDUSTRY SERVICES DIVISION

Administrator's Office

P. O. Box 2658

Madison, Wisconsin 53701-2658

**Governor Scott Walker**

**Secretary Dave Ross**

TTY: Contact Through Relay

### **Commercial Buildings Frequently Asked Questions Fire Suppression**

**IBC 716.5.2 Exception 3 states in part, fire dampers are not required at penetrations of fire barriers where: Such a duct system shall be constructed of sheet steel not less than No. 26 gage thickness and shall be continuous from the air-handling appliance or equipment to the air outlet and inlet terminals. Does this exception prohibit flex-duct from the air-handling appliance or equipment to the air outlet and inlet terminals?**

Answer: Yes. The exception requires sheet steel No. 26 gage thickness shall be continuous which precludes the use of flex-duct anywhere in the ducted system.

**IBC 508.2.5 Is an automatic sprinkler system an automatic fire-extinguishing system?**

Answer: Yes. An automatic sprinkler system utilizes water as the fire-extinguishing agent. An automatic fire-extinguishing system is an approved system of devices and equipment which automatically detects a fire and discharges an approved fire-extinguishing agent onto or in the area of a fire. This term is the generic name for all types of automatic fire-extinguishing systems, including the most common type – the automatic sprinkler system.

**IBC 508.2.5 If a building is completely sprinklered in accordance with NFPA 13, does a laundry room (>100 sf) also require a 1-hour separation per Table 508.2.5?**

Answer: No, the table indicates OR rather than AND. Therefore the 1-hour separation would not be required provided that water is the approved fire-extinguishing agent for the contents of the laundry room.

**IBC 903.2.9.1 and 903.2.10.1 When applying the fire sprinkler threshold requirements of IBC Sections 903.2.9, 903.2.9.1, and 903.2.10.1, what are the commercial trucks or buses referred to there?**

Answer: Fire apparatus are not to be considered commercial trucks. The following is a listing of the types of commercial trucks or buses being referred to in IBC 903.2.9, 903.2.9.1, and 903.2.10.1:

- Semitrailer Tractors
- Trucks having a gross vehicle weight over 26,000 pounds
- Passenger vans or buses with a seating capacity of 16 or more. (September 1, 2011)

**IBC 506.3 Can an automatic fire sprinkler system that complies with NFPA 13R be used to obtain the building-area increase for sprinklering that is permitted by IBC chapter 5?**

Answer: No. Only an NFPA 13 automatic sprinkler system can be used to obtain a building-area increase for sprinklering. (June 30, 2008)

**IBC 1613.1 When do sprinkler systems have to be provided with seismic bracing?**

Answer: Sprinkler systems in buildings of seismic design category C, D, E or F must be provided with seismic bracing. The bracing must conform to the design parameters in Section 13.6.8 of ASCE 7. Seismic bracing is not required for sprinkler systems in buildings of seismic design category A or B. (June 30, 2008)



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**SPS 366.0704 - This Wisconsin amendment to the International Existing Building Code allows omission of the installation of sprinklers in inaccessible, combustibles concealed spaces. Was the intent of this exception to apply to only Level 2 alterations as indicated by its placement, or to any alteration or change of use?**

Answer: The intent was to allow this exception for any alterations, including those triggered by a change of use. (September 1, 2011)